Janna Moes

Elementary School Observations and Middle School Conference

12-8-11

Teacher: MaryChar Erickson

Grade: 5th grade

Date: 11-3-11

For MaryChar Erickson’s class, the students were using Google Docs to discuss Maniac Magee. Students had not used the program before so it was definitely a learning process for both teacher and students. They got to the discussion groups though their class wiki. The students found the sight pretty effortlessly. You could tell they use that sight often in their class. When the students first got into the program, MaryChar told them to pick a color for their text. They were very excited about this choice. For some reason, the students had to wait a long time to for Google Docs to connect whenever multiple students were typing. With this group of students, it was difficult to keep them engaged in the lesson when this was happening. I enjoyed seeing the teacher and students work through the kinks of technology because it does not ever go perfectly well but it is all about how we adapt to the problems and become critical thinkers.

Teacher: Bethany Swart

Grade: 3rd Grade

Date: 11-16-11

When Mrs. Swart introduced that the students were going to get to do Math IXL, the shouts of joy could be heard in the room. It was really great to see the students so excited about a program on the computer. The students had a procedure for getting their computers. When their number was called by Bethany, the students went out into the hallway to get the computers, came back into the classroom, and started up the computer to get logged in. You could definitely tell that the students had a familiarity with the technology and had used the program before. It was really different to see the 3rd graders type. If I was an elementary teacher, it would be very important to find programs that include only small amount of typing, since it would take them such an extended period of time to finish a project that involved a lot of typing. When talking to Bethany after the lesson, she expressed that some of the teachers who did not use the Math IXL program did not like it because of they believed it was too much drilling the students. When talking more with Bethany she said that it was important to know that she uses this program as an additive to their math curriculum not a replacement. Finally, I thought that this program was a great additive to the lessons that they had been learning in their daily math lessons.

Middle School Conference

Date: 10-12-11 through 10-14-11

During the middle school conference, I attended two different sessions on technology. The first session was titled, “Classroom Technology and Strategies Across the Curriculum,” presented by Mary Wiltgen. All of the resources presented were free websites to use in your classroom. The best thing that she gave us in the presentation was a simple handout with all of the sights listed. Along with the sight listed, the chart included information such as a breakdown of uses, login information, and required information to use the sight. I ended up using this sheet to share with my mentoring teachers and other teachers at my school.

The second session, “Finding Resources: Technology Integration and Differentiation for your Classroom,” presented by Kelly Reinert talked mainly about textbook tools and resources. It was a little difficult to engage in this session’s since my students do not have a textbook that we use for our art curriculum. In addition, many of the strategies were based on the resources given from the textbook companies on CD-ROMs. In the end, I thought it was some information that I could bring back to core teachers at my school that have a textbook curriculum.